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Letter No. 2345

January 14, 1988

**U.S. EXPORTS TO  
USSR: 1986**

U.S. agricultural exports to the USSR in 1986 totaled \$658 million; including soybeans, \$313 million; corn, \$291 million; almonds, \$38 million; and inedible tallow. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, production and marketing decisions in the USSR are made by the Government. State trading and shortage of hard currency are the major impediments to expanded U.S. agricultural sales to the USSR. The lack of hard currency has led the USSR to push for more balance in bilateral trade and more use of countertrade agreements. The USSR gives preference to satellite suppliers.

**U.S. EXPORTS  
TO CANADA**

U.S. export statistics and Canadian import statistics disagree widely, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Canadian statistics, which are much higher, are believed to be more accurate. U.S. agricultural exports to Canada in 1986 totaled \$1 billion 600 million, according to U.S. statistics. According to Canadian data, the total was \$2 billion 600 million. Canada was the third largest market for U.S. agricultural exports after the European Community and Japan.

**USSR PRODUCTION  
TARGETS FOR  
1988**

USSR production targets are set for 1988 and are higher than actual 1986 production, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The following production plans have been announced in recent articles in the Soviet press. The 1988 target for grain is 235 million tons; for oilseed crops, 7 million 650 thousand tons; and for cotton fiber, 2 million 550 thousand tons.

**1988 EXPORT  
FORECAST**

The fiscal 1988 export volume is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to rise to 141 million tons, up 12 million tons above the 1987 level. Export value is projected to rise to \$32 billion, up almost 15 percent from 1987.

**IMPORT  
FORECASTS**

Agricultural imports for October totaled \$1 billion 820 million, up 10 percent from October 1986, and up 15 percent over September 1987. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's official import forecast for fiscal 1988 is \$20 billion 500 million, relatively unchanged from fiscal 1987.

U.S. TRADE FOR  
OCTOBER

The U.S. agricultural export volume for October 1987, totaled 12 million 200 thousand metric tons, up 9 percent from the 11 million 200 thousand tons exported during October 1986, and September 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The rising exports of wheat to China and Egypt; large sales of soybeans and cotton to Japan and the European Community; and purchases of soybeans, soybean meal and wheat by the Soviets should maintain the upward momentum for bulk exports. October's agricultural export value totaled \$2 billion 680 million--up 10 percent from October 1986 and up 15 percent from September 1987 levels.

U.S. AG. TRADE  
SURPLUS CONTINUES

The October agricultural trade surplus was \$853 million, up \$96 million from September, and the 15th consecutive month the U.S. has run up a surplus, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The fiscal 1988 trade surplus is forecast at \$11 billion 500 million, up \$4 billion 300 million from the \$7 billion 200 million surplus of 1987 and the highest level since 1984.

THINGS ARE  
JUMPING IN  
N. DAKOTA & IDAHO

A coalition of nine Federal agencies has transformed six million acres in Idaho and North Dakota into a large outdoor laboratory to improve grasshopper control methods, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This five-year integrated pest management project was undertaken in response to the record-setting grasshopper damage in 1985 and 1986. This project should help participating agencies and the Western States control grasshoppers on a more scientific basis.

COTTON PRODUCTION  
UP 51%

All cotton production in the U.S. in 1987 is expected to total 14 million 700 thousand bales, 51 percent above the 1986 crop and 3 percent above the December 1 forecast, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The upland cotton production forecast is 14 million 500 thousand bales and American-Pima production is expected to total a record high 264 thousand bales.

HOGS & PIGS  
UP 6%

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 53 million 800 thousand head on Dec. 1, 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is 6 percent above a year ago and 3 percent above December 1, 1985. The breeding hog inventory at 7 million 20 thousand, is 5 percent above last year and 4 percent above two years ago. The market hog inventory, at 46 million 800 thousand, is 6 percent above a year ago and 3 percent above 2 years ago.

RESIDUE  
MONITORING  
DOCUMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a new document available that explains its system for evaluating and ranking potential chemical contaminants of the food supply. The document, "Compound Evaluation System," describes the guidelines used in determining which drugs and chemicals must be monitored and controlled because of the risk they could pose if they entered the food chain. For single, free copies of the "Compound Evaluation System," contact Dr. W. R. Miller, Room 602 Annex Bldg., FSIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.



TURKEYS OF  
1987

Turkeys raised in the U.S. during 1987, at 240 million, were 16 percent greater than the 207 million raised during 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. North Carolina ranked first in the number raised, with 48 million 400 thousand...followed by Minnesota with 40 million 500 thousand. California came next with 25½ million...Arkansas with 18 million...Virginia with 16 million 200 thousand, and Missouri with 15½ million.

GUAYULE RUBBER  
FACILITY TESTED

A prototype facility for producing natural rubber from guayule (wy-oo-lee) was opened at the San Tan Industrial Park on the Gila River Indian Community Reservation near Phoenix, Arizona. The newly constructed facility is a cooperative venture between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense to establish a domestic guayule natural rubber industry. A domestic supply of rubber could reduce our dependence on foreign sources for a critical land strategic material and would provide a new industry for southwestern U.S. Also participating are the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., Dravo Engineering Companies, Inc., the Gila River Indian Community, and land-grant universities in Arizona, California, Texas, and New Mexico.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1597...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Mexico is a big trading partner for the United States but tariffs on some agricultural items have slowed trade. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA, Brenda Curtis talks to U.S. Deputy Assistant Trade Representative Tim Bennett concerning how many of these tariffs are being removed.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1586...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Grasshopper controls; 1987 Census report; Mexico drops tariffs.

CONSUMER TIME #1078...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Risk management for local government officials; Food fortification trends; Mega-dosing and the balanced diet; Suddenly single; High priced lettuce.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Jan. 19, Weekly crop and weather outlook; Livestock and poultry report; Wed, Jan. 20, Dairy, catfish reports; Fri, Jan. 22, Cattle on feed, livestock slaughter reports. Dial the National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs, A BETTER WAY, DOWN TO EARTH, AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and SATELLITE NEWS are available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8 as follows:

Thursdays....AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS, 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

Saturdays....A BETTER WAY, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

ORIGINAL DOWN TO EARTH, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 9X

UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

Mondays.....A BETTER WAY, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

REPEAT DOWN TO EARTH, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 12D

UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

A BETTER WAY is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6.8 each Friday 11:00 a.m. ET.

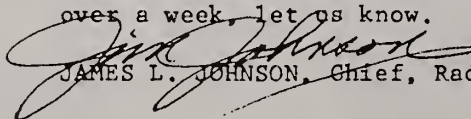
OFF MIKE

A couple farm broadcasters are either on travel or getting ready to at this writing. Sherry Newell (WJON, St. Cloud, MN) was invited to tour Israel, and if her travel went according to plans, she's there this week (week of January 11). And Tom Steever (KS00, Sioux Falls, SD) leaves January 20 for two months in India. Tom says it's all part of a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange. Rotary districts in this country are paired with ones in India. Tom will be observing his hosts' life styles and learning more about India's economics, industry, agriculture, and social life ... Here's a bit of catching up, gleaned from Bob Bosold's WAXX, Eau Claire, WI, newsletter. He had another run-in with donkeys. He helped put together a "Superstar" team to raise money for the February State FFA Alumni Convention. The ensuing Donkey Basketball game gained his team the sportsmanship award (he thinks) for some of their spectacular acrobatic dismounts ... First a freebie offer, then a question about service. We have

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the "Rural Development Strategy Update" report available if you'd like a copy. It's from Under Secretary Roland Vantour's office, and it contains a run-down on the rural development programs for the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, Commerce, Education, Energy, Transportation, Health and Human Services and Interior. So, if you would like to see what's planned for your area in the way of rural development efforts, let us know. As to the question: We're still having problems getting this newsletter out in an orderly manner. We're had a couple farm broadcasters call about the slowness from the time we write it to when they received it. But, we need more instances of lateness. So, if you think about it, check the date of the newsletter against the date when you receive it. And, if it's over a week, let us know.

  
JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division